

Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention, and serves on the boards of various organizations. They are the proud parents of two daughters: Cheray and Brooke.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that I can call them friends. I commend them for their many years of valued service to citizens of the 4th Congressional District. I wish them the very best in their retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2011 BRONX DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the twenty-second annual Bronx Dominican Parade and Festival which will take place on Sunday, July 24, 2011. This famed event is eagerly anticipated by the Dominican and Bronx communities each year. It is a wonderful celebration of the spirit and richness of Dominican culture.

Under the continued leadership of Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala, the Bronx Dominican Day Parade, Inc., La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, has grown into an important institution that increases the self-awareness and pride of the Dominican people in order to promote economic development, education, cultural recognition, and advancement.

Dominicans have made invaluable contributions to the city, as well as to the entire nation. Although the highest concentration of Dominican people live in Washington Heights, a significant number have enriched the Bronx with their unique culture and spirit. The Dominican culture is one characterized by, among other things, diverse multi-culturalism, strong family values, distinctive art, amazing music and unique cuisine. We are grateful that so many have chosen to make the Bronx home.

Mr. Speaker, the roots of Dominican New Yorkers lie in a country with a fascinating history and arresting beauty. The Dominican Republic is the home of a number of people from various heritages. As a result, the culture is charged with strong Taino, African, and European influences. One visit to the Dominican Republic will put to rest any questions one might have as to why Dominicans in America retain such a strong sense of pride in their homeland and never stop missing it.

The achievements and contributions made by Dominican-Americans and Dominican residents have spanned the realms of politics, science, the Armed Forces, literature, public service, and the arts, and undoubtedly make them an integral part of American society.

The Bronx Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx is a great opportunity to celebrate Dominican culture, history, and its bright future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed two votes this evening, which included rollcall votes 601 and 602. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 601, H.R. 33. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 602, on Approving the Journal.

TRIBUTE TO COHOCTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men of women of the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department who have tirelessly served our local and national community for 125 years. As the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 125th anniversary, I applaud the many ways they have served our community.

From July 22–24, members of the department will hold several events commemorating the service of their valiant volunteers. Historical displays, parades, competitions and dinners will be held. The department will even be publishing a commemorative book on its history to celebrate this milestone.

For the past 125 years, members have selflessly given their time and energy to serve our community throughout periods of emergency and disaster. While the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department should be commemorated for all of their service to our community, I want to especially highlight their tireless work during the 1972 Flood, the Ice Storm of 1991 and the Blizzard of 1993—three major storms which devastated the Chemung Valley.

Furthermore, the department also aided the national community during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Under a mutual aid request, the department sent an ambulance and personnel to the Twin Towers Site after the attack. The ambulance was equipped with medical supplies donated by the local community for use by the FDNY.

Members of the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department have repeatedly risked their lives in order to save our friends and neighbors. I am proud to recognize such a self-sacrificing and courageous organization. I congratulate the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their 125 years of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on amendment rollcall No. 615, No. 616, No. 617, No. 618, No. 619, No. 620 as well as rollcall No. 621 for final passage of H.R. 1315, I am not recorded because I was attending to a family

matter. Had I been present, I would have voted: No—Representative Sheila Jackson Lee Amendment No. 4; no—Representative Brad Miller Amendment; no—Representative Sheila Jackson Lee Amendment No. 3; no—Representative Carolyn Maloney Amendment; yes—Representative Scott Rigel Amendment; no—Democrat Motion to Recommit; and yes—Final Passage of H.R. 2551.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on July 21, 2011 in order to attend the funeral of one of my staffers. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 612, 613, 614, 619, 621 and “no” on rollcall votes 615, 616, 617, 618, and 620.

CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE
WATERS' STATEMENT ON THE
LOSS OF HER FRIEND AND COM-
MUNITY ICON, LILLIAN
HARKLESS-MOBLEY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am heartbroken that one of my closest and dearest friends, Lillian Mobley, has passed away. I worked with Lillian—known throughout South Los Angeles communities as “Ms. Mobley”—for over 3 decades. We have marched together, participated in protests together, and fought off anyone who attacked our community together. Lillian was my ‘shero.’

Lillian Mobley is without a doubt the most accomplished and successful community activist South Los Angeles has ever had. She helped found numerous community institutions and organizations that include Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital, Charles Drew Medical Center, Los Angeles Southwest College, Black Women's Forum, the Lillian Mobley South Central Multipurpose Senior Citizens Center, Mothers in Action, Grandma's Hands Los Angeles Birthing Project, Watts Towers Community Action Council and others. She is on the Walk of Fame in Watts, has a building named after her at the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center, a clinic at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital that also houses a bust of her image, the Mother of Africa statue at WLCAC was dedicated to her as well as the amphitheater at Watts Towers and a Family Housing Center, and of course the senior center she founded that now carries her name.

She served on the board of over 20 organizations and was highly sought after by politicians hoping to win her endorsement to be elected to office. And it was only if Lillian believed that their election to office would benefit the community and help preserve the very institutions she helped to create like Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital would she support them.

Lillian Mobley is one of the icons of South Central and the Watts communities of Los Angeles that has helped to educate the city and